

Appl. No. 09/980,413
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The features of claim 10 are combined into claim 8
(currently amended).

New claims 16 and 17 are supported by the specification at
page 8, third paragraph.

A new title is presented. Also, annexed is a new Abstract.

The claims are rejected as anticipated over Fidoe et al.
(WO 99/17614) or Windus (USP 3,104,151); or obvious over their
combined teachings.

The claims are amended to avoid these rejections by
combining claim 10 and claim 8.

The obviousness rejection is not applied to claim 10. This
leaves the anticipation rejections over each of the cited
references.

In response to the Examiner's objections to novelty, it is
submitted that applicants are not using a composition of a THP or
tetrakis(hydroxymethyl)phosphonium salt sealed in a PVA bag. The
THP has greater than 80% of THP.

With regard to Windus, applicants have removed "dialdehyde
starch" from the claims.

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With regard to the Examiner's objections to inventive step, Windus is limited to the use of a THP salt and phenol copolymer as the source of THP in the tannage. Page 11, paragraph 3 of the specification states:

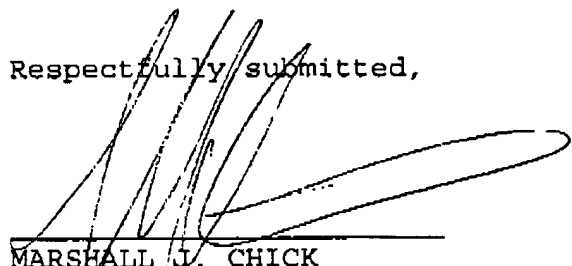
"The THP is preferably applied in the substantial absence of monomers or prepolymers capable of copolymerizing with the THP such as phenol, urea, melamine or their precondensates with formaldehyde."

Thus, the specification of the present invention deliberately warned against a feature which is stated to be essential in the citation. The citation therefore teaches away from the present invention.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Enc. ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

.Sep.19.2003 11:55AM

FRISHAUF & PARTNERS

No. 2124 P. 9/9

From: CHICK

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mixture of THP and a moderator is used to tan leather.

RR²
The moderator is selected from metaphosphates and polyhydroxy or polypyrolidyl compounds such as glycerol, carboxydrates PVA or PVP.